

June 29, 2012

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Congestion Reduction Demonstration (ExpressLanes) Project**

Recommendation

Receive and file an update on the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Los Angeles County Congestion Reduction Demonstration (ExpressLanes) Project.

Analysis

On April 24, 2008 the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Board of Directors approved entering into negotiations with the USDOT for the award of \$213.6 million (since reduced to \$210 million) in FY 2007 bus and bus facility money.

State legislation was required for Los Angeles County to receive the funding and move the project forward. SB 1422 provided the necessary state enabling legislation. SB 1422 passed both houses of the Legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law on September 28, 2008.

Los Angeles County and Caltrans initially agreed to convert High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. The final plans include construction of an additional toll lane in each direction between the I-605 and the I-710 freeways to add capacity along that corridor. None of the general purpose lanes will be taken away to convert the lanes and make the improvements. The El Monte Station improvements, including the new Foothill Transit Store is scheduled for completion in August of 2012 at which time a ribbon-cutting event will be held. The ExpressLanes along the I-10 freeway are expected to be completed in early 2013.

Foothill Transit received funding through the ExpressLanes Project for 12 coaches buses that will be used to supplement Line 699 and Silver Streak service along Interstate 10. In addition to the capital funds provided for the acquisition of these coaches, Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds have been provided for the operation of these vehicles during the year-long demonstration project. The Interstate 10 portion of the ExpressLanes project is expected to open in February 2013.

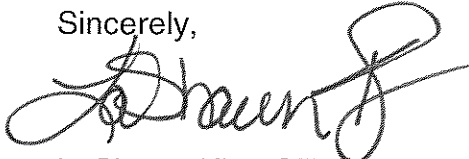
Stephanie Wiggins, Metro Executive Officer for the ExpressLanes Project will be in attendance at the Executive Board meeting and will be available to provide further information on the current status of the project and the overall project schedule.

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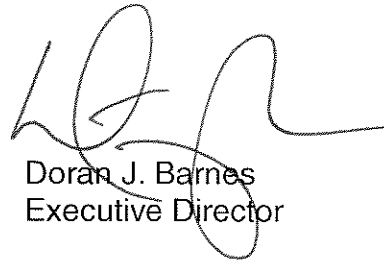
Budget Impact

There is no budget impact from the recommended action. Foothill Transit received \$7.46 million in capital funding for the purchase of 12 additional buses that will operate along Interstate Highway 10. The demonstration project also includes \$3.2 million in CMAQ operating funds.

Sincerely,



LaShawn King Gillespie
Director of Planning



Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director